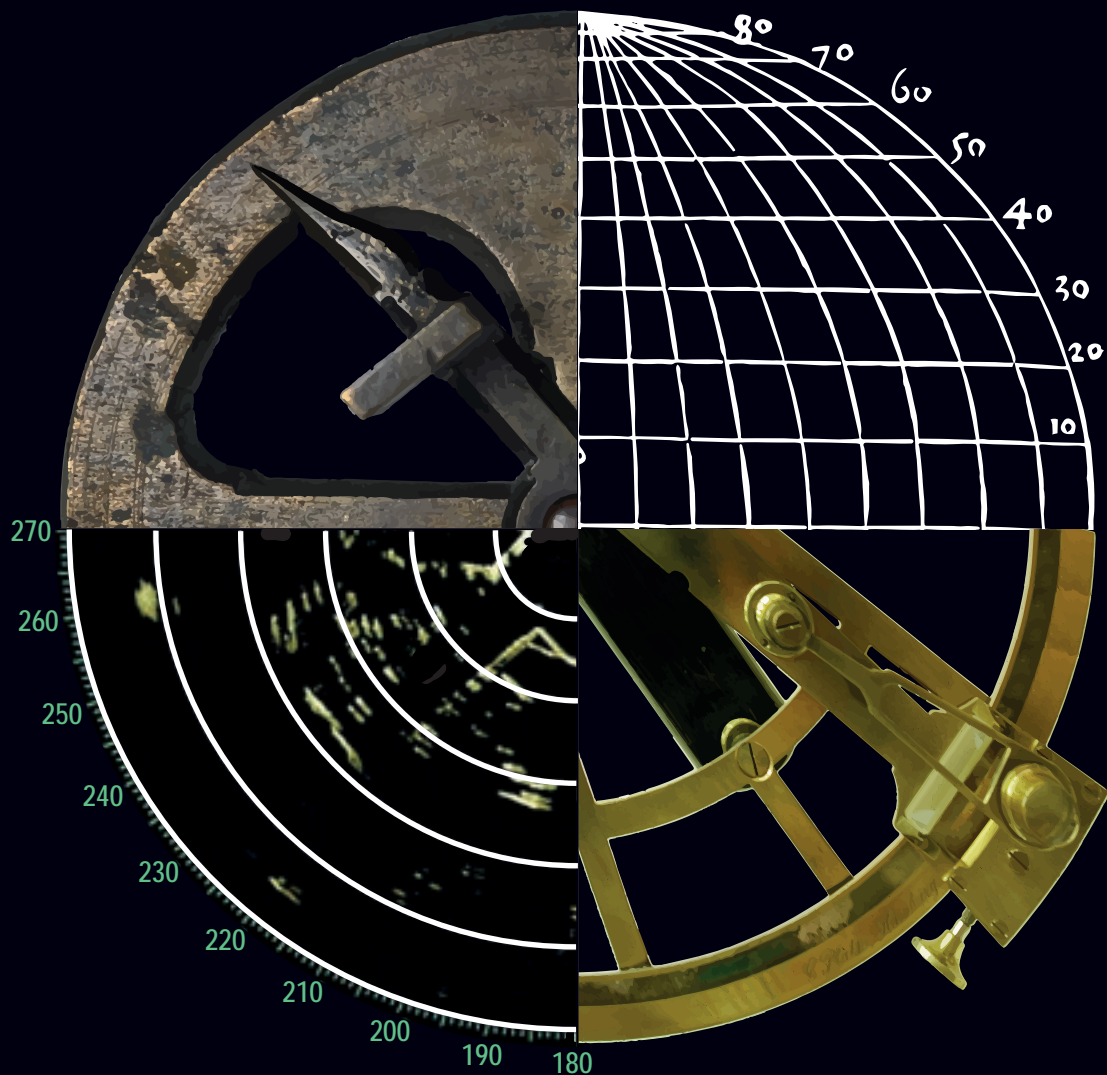


CONQUERING THE SEVEN SEAS

NAVIGATION FROM 1500 TO TODAY

FROM 04-06
UNTIL 11-09

STEM – MERCATOR MUSEUM
SINT-NIKLAAS



stad
Sint-Niklaas



THINGS TO SEE

A life without GPS is hardly imaginable anymore; after all, everyone who has a smartphone always has one with them. And with Google Maps and Waze in our pocket, we can hardly imagine how it was possible to sail to all corners of the world with only the sun and stars to rely on.

The urge to explore and understand the world is one of the most fundamental human qualities. Nowhere do we see this more clearly than in the history of navigation. Mankind has explored the seas for centuries, driven by economic, political, scientific and religious factors. From the Minoans in the Mediterranean to the Vikings in the north, and the Polynesians with their stick charts to today's cutting-edge satellite technology, the ingenuity and courage of the sailors continues to capture the imagination.

The 'Recht door Zee' (Conquering the seven seas) exhibition 'Navigation from 1500 to Today' tells the story of five centuries at sea through an ever-expanding knowledge of cartography, geography and astronomy. Dozens of navigational instruments, from sextants to modern satellites, illustrate the fascinating story of the technological advances that made it possible for European sailors to sail to the Americas, India, Australia and the South Pole. On the basis of early maps and books, visitors can travel to faraway places via winds and currents.

This exhibition, which covers almost 1,200 m² across three locations, will guide you through time. Animations, replicas and interactive screens will immerse you in the nautical atmosphere. The highlights of the exhibition include handwritten manuscripts and Portolan charts, a partially recreated ship's bridge from a historic naval vessel, the world's oldest Sanskrit astrolabe, hand-crafted curiosities from bored crew members, and one of the largest private collections of sextants.

Come to the exhibition from June 4 to September 11 and see for yourself why seafaring was once the most adventurous thing to do!





24
*"There was a time when sailing the seas was
the most adventurous thing one could do:
the renaissance equivalent of being an astronaut"*

THINGS TO DO

Calculate your position yourself with replicas of ancient navigation instruments on the reconstructed bridge of a historic naval ship.

Try sailing a modern ship yourself with the sailing simulator in the Piet Elshout hall, and find out if you are a born skipper.

Be amazed by a computer animation depicting the itineraries of some prominent European explorers.

Look for the treasure chest of Flyby Treasures (Schatten van Vlieg) with your children, using your own treasure map.

With VR technology, you can surprise yourself at how much work it takes to create a detailed nautical chart and keep it up-to-date.

Learn all about the ultramodern navigation techniques of the Belgian Navy and their missions at sea through a video made on board a sailing ship.

Visit the museum shop, operated for the first time on the two museum sites by Standaard Boekhandel NV, with exclusive publications on seafaring for young and old.

Test your nautical knowledge on our unique 'Maritime Pub Quiz'. Take the wind out of your competitors' sails and outdo your friends with your nautical knowledge. But above all: be amazed and entertained with the often surprising and sometimes hilarious stories behind maritime inventions.

Do you want to know more than what is told in the exhibition? Be sure to ask for a tour guide with extra in-depth texts at the entrance.

Not read enough yet? Then our hard-cover catalogue is available in the museum shop, with interesting contributions from eminent collectors, professors and captains.

The information in the exhibition is provided in three languages: Dutch, French and English (subtitles and wall texts).



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration:

04-06-2022 > 11-09-2022

Location:

SteM, Exhibition hall, Piet Elshout hall, Zwijgershoek 14, 9100 Sint-Niklaas
Mercator Museum, Zamanstraat 49D (entrance through the park), 9100 Sint-Niklaas

Opening hours:

Tuesday – Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Evening opening every Thursday until 10 pm
Closed on Mondays
The museum is open on Thursday, 21 July

Prices:*

Individual visitors: 6 EUR

Free: museum card holders, MuseumPASS, teacher's card, European Disability Card (also for supervisors), members of 'Kunst in de Stad', the Breimuseum non-profit association, KOKW

Kansenpas (Opportunity pass) holders: 2.50 EUR

Children up to 12 years of age: free

Free entry for everyone every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*The tickets are valid for two days on all sites for the date indicated on your ticket and one other date of your choice.

Groups and clubs can make reservations (with or without a guide) via the museum's website.

Reservations via www.museasintniklaas.be/tentoonstellingen/recht-door-zee/reservaties

Accessibility:

All the sites of this exhibition are accessible to visitors with reduced mobility. Wheelchairs, both manual and electric, are allowed in the museums, and the toilets are accessible to visitors with reduced mobility via the lift to the first floor.

Contact:

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PARTNERS

For this exhibition, the SteM is working together with the Belgian Navy, the Antwerp Maritime Academy, Ghent University, Koninklijke Oudheidkundige Kring van het Land van Waas (the Royal Archaeological Circle of the Land of Waas), the Phoebus Foundation, the Hendrik Conscience Heritage Library and a number of important private and institutional lenders, the most important of which is the unique NavigArte Collection.

A number of committed companies who are active in the professional nautical sector are the partners of this expo (gold, silver and bronze Mercator), and will explain their activities in the Piet Elshout hall:

Production



affiliated with **MUSEUM PASS MUSÉES** a cultural institution of  stad **Sint-Niklaas**

Subsidizer



Exhibition partner



Gold Mercator



Silver Mercator



Bronze Mercator



Sponsor

